

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 26, as follows:

In order to solve the above-described problems, the present invention provides a tablet packing apparatus, the apparatus comprising:

- a plurality of feeder vessels containing the tablets;
- a plurality of mounting bases on which respective feeder vessels are mounted;
- a tablet reserving member disposed below the mounting base, the tablet reserving member reserving the tablets fed from the feeder vessels; and

a shutter which is movable to open and close the lower opening of the tablet reserving member, whereby when setting the tablet vessel beneath the tablet reserving member and moving the shutter to open the lower opening of the tablet reserving member, the tablets contained in the tablet reserving member are fed into the tablet vessel, the apparatus further comprising:

- a LED "(Light Emitting Diode)" which is turned on when the tablets are fed to the tablet reserving member; and

- a sensor for detecting opening or closing operation of the shutter;

whereby when the sensor detects the opening operation of the shutter, the LED is turned off.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 2, as follows:

The empty vessel conveyor 53 is provided below the delivery table 62 along the stock containers 51 arranged in line. In the same manner as the conveyor-~~66~~ 61, the empty vessel conveyor 53 comprises a pair of pulleys 71 and a pair of conveyor ropes 72 looped between the pair of pulleys 71.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 27, as follows:

The upper openings of the packing hopper 97 and of the discharging hopper 98 are closed and opened by a closing/opening door 103 provided pivotably. The lower end of the packing hopper 97, as shown in Fig. 14, extends so as to gradually reducing its diameter and connects to a lower cylindrical portion 110 to form a step like shape. In the lower cylindrical portion 110, an internal cylinder 111 is disposed so as to move vertically. A hood 112 is fixed on the upper end of the internal cylinder 111 so that the ~~feed~~hood 112 can open and close the internal opening 110a of the lower cylindrical portion 110. Thus, when the tablet vessel 11 is raised by the lifter 84 to push up the internal cylinder 111, tablets sustained by the hood 112 are discharged into the tablet vessel 11.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 21, as follows:

The tablet conveyor section 27 is then actuated and controlled; that is, the pulleys 47 are driven and rotated so that the conveyor vessel 46 is moved by the conveyor belt 48 and positioned under the common guide path 31 (step S45). The hopper 44 is then rotated to direct the opening thereof to the conveyor vessel 46 (step S46), and the shutter ~~49~~43 is opened to allow the tablets to be stored into the conveyor vessel 46 (step S47).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 20, as follows:

The shutter 300 has a fan-shape. On the front edge thereof the shutter 300 is formed with a guide portion 302 comprising an arc-like cutout, while on the rear edge thereof the shutter 300 is formed with a protrusion 303 which is detected by sensors 301a, 301b. The shutter 300 is urged in a counterclockwise direction in Fig. 28 around a support shaft 301a by a spring 304 provided around the support shaft ~~304a~~300a. Therefore, if no load is applied, the shutter 300 closes the lower opening 305 of the tablet reserving member. The guide portion 302 is directed toward the front side, allowing the

upper opening of the tablet vessel 11 to position easily in place. The protrusion 303 is detected by the sensor 301a, i.e., the ~~closes~~closed condition of the shutter 300 is detected by the sensor 301a, whereby the tablets can be fed from the motor base 32. However, after the tablets are discharged in the tablet reserving member, the tablets can not be fed from the motor base 32 unless the opened condition of the shutter 300 is detected. Thus, the feed of the tablets are controlled based on the signals from the sensors 301a, 301b and the motor base 32, whereby the feed of the tablets can be constantly properly conducted.